

Good afternoon esteemed chairperson and colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against SB 1076: An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients. My name is Jessica Power, I live in Coventry, CT, and I am currently a senior at UConn studying Human Development and Family Sciences.

During my freshman year at UConn, my uncle Hugh passed away from Melanoma. Prior to passing, he had been informed of the fact that he only had a few months to live. Throughout the hardest days of his life, my uncle grew closer to all of his children and his ex-wife allowed him to pass away in a bed in her home so that his children could be by his side. My uncle Hugh was not only a beloved uncle, but also a beloved teacher, son, brother, and friend. With SB1076, my uncle could have missed out on spending the last days of his life with the people he loved most, his children. SB1076 would have also made it possible for my uncle to have taken his own life without anyone in his family knowing.

All of us can agree that the end of life for someone who is terminally ill is very difficult. However, instead of providing a means for suicide, we should be providing compassion. The American Medical Association once stated that "Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks" (1993). They also stated that patients should not be abandoned while they are dying, and instead, should be provided hospice, pastoral support, family counseling, emotional support, and pain control.

While it can be argued that not everyone has a support system to stand by them at the end of their life, why are we fighting for legislation that would kill these individuals, when instead, we could develop public policy to make sure that these individuals have networks of support at the end of their lives.

SB 1076 should be opposed, as it limits the possibility for someone who is at the end of their life to be shown real love and compassion.

Thank you for your time.

[1] "State of Oregon Death with Dignity Report 2021", Oregon Public Health Division
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PROVIDERPARTNERRESOURCES/EVALUATIONRESEARCH/DEATHWITHDIGNITYACT/Documents/year24.pdf>

[2] CEJA is the Council for Ethical and Judicial Affairs of the AMA which wrote the report including the above language and the report was overwhelmingly approved by the AMA. "REPORT 2 OF THE COUNCIL ON ETHICAL AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS (2-A-19)" 2019, Lines 27-34.

[3] "Opinion 2.211 - Physician-Assisted Suicide", American Medical Association, adopted 1993, updated June 1996, reaffirmed 2019.

